

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the preceding amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-22 are pending in this application. Claim 1 is amended, and claims 23-27 are canceled.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claim 26 is allowable and the indication that dependent claims 7-18 and 22 contain allowable subject matter.

In light of the indication that claim 26 is allowable, claim 1 is amended herewith to correspond to claim 26 that is cancelled. Accordingly, this Amendment does **NOT** raise new issues requiring further search and/or consideration and thus, should be entered on the record.

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art rejections included in the Office Action mailed February 21, 2006 are all rendered moot because the previously rejected claims either depend from amended independent claim 1 or have been canceled.

However, Applicants respectfully note that the present action does not indicate that the drawings have been accepted by the Examiner. The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner's next communication include an indication as to the acceptability of the filed drawings or as to any perceived deficiencies so that the Applicants may have a full and fair opportunity to submit appropriate amendments and/or corrections to the drawings

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks and amendments, the Applicants respectfully submit that each of the pending objections and rejections are rendered moot, leaving the present application for condition for formal allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized and in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge any under payment or non-payment of any fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17, or credit any overpayment of such fees, to Deposit Account No. 08-0750, including, in particular, extension of time fees.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John A. Castellano at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, Dickey, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By

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